**American International School of Kingston**

IB History of the Americas

Standard Level (SL) and Higher Level (HL)

**Course Description:**

IB History of the Americas is covered in two years, grades 11 and 12. The purpose of the course is to enable students to become historians; to **research, interpret, analyze** and **draw their own conclusions**. We seek to foster **globally minded, compassionate thinkers** who understand and appreciate the **interdependence** between peoples and their environments. While focusing on the acquisition of historical knowledge, students will be able to gain an understanding of the present through their explorations of the past. Through careful study of differing interpretations of historical events, we hope gain **tolerance** and an appreciation for **diversity**. Students prepare to be **active citizens** of their country and the world. Without knowledge of history, students lack the tools and purpose to enable positive change. While technology and increased interdependence continue to shape our world, it is imperative that we develop a sense of **responsibility** and **ownership** of the changes.

**Course Topics:**

Prescribed Subject (Paper One)

1. Communism in crisis 1976-1989

Topics for Paper Two

1. Democratic states – challenges and responses
2. Origins and development of authoritarian and single-party states
3. The Cold War

Regional choice (Paper Three)

The Americas, 20th Century

**Course Assessments:**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Topic:** | **SL** | **HL** |
| Historical Investigation | Of your choice | 25% | 20% |
| Paper One (60 minutes) | Communism in Crisis (1976-1989) | 30% | 20% |
| Paper Two (90 minutes) | Single party states AND/OR democratic states AND/OR the Cold War | 45% | 25% |
| Paper Three (150 minutes) | The Americas, 20th century | n/a | 35% |

**Course Grade:**

Two grades are given each year, Semester 1 and Semester 2. Each semester grade will include the following:

Semester 1: Semester 2:

Quarter 1 40% Quarter 3 40%

Quarter 2 40% = 100% Quarter 4 40% = 100%

Semester 1 Final Exam 20% Semester 2 Final Exam 20%

Each quarter grade is based on the following:

Reading Assignments and Participation 20%

Essays/ Writing Assignments 30%

Projects 30%

Tests 20%

*AISK MS/HS Grade Descriptors*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| A  90 to 100% | - **Maintains** and **exceeds** AISK curriculum standards  - Provides evidence of a **high** level of critical thinking and application of knowledge in a variety of tasks  - Provides evidence of a **high** level of creative and/or innovative learning or understanding  - **Highly** motivated and works independently |
| B  80 to 89% | - **Maintains** and **meets** AISK curriculum standards  - Provides evidence of a **good** level of critical thinking and application of knowledge in a variety of tasks  - Provides evidence of a **good** level of creative and/or innovative learning or understanding  - **Usually** motivated and works independently **with occasional assistance** |
| C  70 to 79% | - **Meets** **most** AISK curriculum standards  - Provides evidence of a **moderate** level of critical thinking and application of knowledge in a variety of tasks  - Provides evidence of a **moderate** level of creative and/or innovative learning or understanding  - **Sometimes** motivated and works independently **with some assistance** |
| D  60 to 69% | - **Meets** level of **some** AISK curriculum standards  - Provides **minimal** evidence of critical thinking and application of knowledge in a variety of tasks  - Provides **minimal** evidence of creative and/or innovative learning or understanding  - **Little** motivation and works independently **with assistance** |
| F  55 to 59% | - **Does not meet** AISK curriculum standards  - Provides **insufficient** evidence of critical thinking and application of knowledge in a variety of tasks  - Provides **insufficient** evidence of creative and/or innovative learning or understanding  - **Not** motivated and **does not** work independently |